



News Release

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Flood Control District aids in purchase of Sheriff Rescue boat

Boat designed to operate in extremely shallow water

As we watch Houston's recovery from Hurricane Harvey, one of the biggest challenges emergency service crews face during flooding events are a lack of boats capable of operating in shallow water and where unseen hazards are submerged. Today the King County Sheriff's Office took possession of a boat that will be used primarily for river rescues and can operate in water as shallow as three inches while cruising on plane.

"We can learn a lot from the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey and prepare for flood events right here in King County," said King County Flood Control District Chair Reagan Dunn. "This new boat is a vital addition to our marine rescue unit and will be important as we move into flooding season in the next few months."

"The Marine Unit is made up of talented and dedicated personnel," said Sheriff John Urquhart. "This partnership will help them save lives."

"This boat represents a partnership between the Sheriff's office and the Flood District. It will increase the public safety capacity of the Marine Rescue Unit, and allow the Flood District to perform inspections of levees and other flood control sites around the County," said Councilmember Dave Upthegrove, the Vice Chair of the of the Flood Control District. "It was important to support this investment in emergency preparedness."

The Flood Control District provided half of the \$85,000 needed to purchase the light-weight 21-foot shallow water jet boat that is armed with powerful all-around LED lights for nighttime rescue operations. Equipped with a jet drive, the boat can go places where a propeller (prop) driven boat cannot. The boat also has a tunnel

hull design with a special bottom coating that allows it to slide over rocks, logs, sandbars and other underwater hazards while protecting and preventing damage to the hull.

The boat can hold up to 6 passengers or 3,000 pounds, allowing the transport of needed dive and rescue equipment.

Prior to the purchase of the boat, the Marine Rescue Dive Unit was forced to find a place suitable to put in rescue rafts up-river before floating down-river using oars to reach victims. The new boat will allow Marine Rescue Dive Unit personnel to navigate through rivers and flood waters without fear of becoming stuck or causing disabling damage to the boat.

Editors: Cutline for the attached photo: "King County Sheriff John Urquhart and King County Flood Control District Chair Reagan Dunn are joined by members of the King County Sheriff's Office Marine Rescue Unit in front of the KCSO's new river rescue boat."

(l-r) Sgt. Mark Rorvik KCSO's Marine Rescue Dive Unit, Sheriff Urquhart, Flood District Chair Dunn, KCSO Deputy Ben Callahan.

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The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District's Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org.